

Reinforcement

Continental Drift

**Directions:** Match the descriptions in Column I with the terms in Column II. Write the letter of the correct term in the blank at the left.

Column I

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. reptile fossil found in South America and Africa
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. fossil plant found in Africa, Australia, India, South America, and Antarctica
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. clues that support continental drift
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. mountains similar to those in Greenland and western Europe
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Wegener’s name for one large landmass
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. slow movement of continents
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. evidence that Africa was once cold

Column II

- a. Pangaea
- b. Appalachians
- c. continental drift
- d. glacial deposits
- e. *Glossopteris*
- f. *Mesosaurus*
- g. fossil, climate, and rock

**Directions:** Answer the following questions on the lines provided using complete sentences.

8. How did the discovery of *Glossopteris* support Wegener’s continental drift hypothesis?

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9. Why was Wegener’s hypothesis of continental drift not widely accepted at the time it was proposed? What do scientists now think might be a possible cause of continental drift?

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## Continental Drift

### Seafloor Spreading

Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks using the words below.

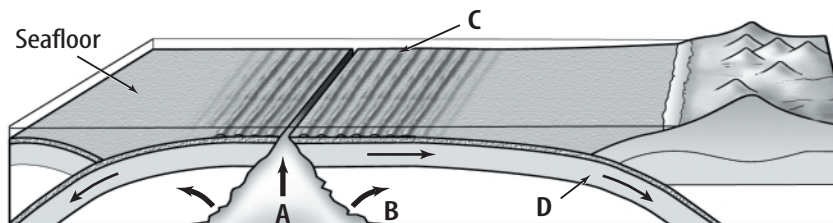
Pangaea  
continents

Arctic  
Africa

rock  
seafloor spreading

Alfred Wegener was one of the first people to suggest that all of the 1. \_\_\_\_\_ were joined together in the past. He called the one large continent 2. \_\_\_\_\_. Evidence exists to support his hypothesis. For example, similar fossils have been found in South America and 3. \_\_\_\_\_. Also, fossils of warm-weather plants have been found in the 4. \_\_\_\_\_. Similar 5. \_\_\_\_\_ structures exist in the Appalachian Mountains and in Greenland and western Europe. But until clues on the ocean floor led to the theory of 6. \_\_\_\_\_, scientists could not think of how the continents might move.

**Directions:** Study the following diagram of the seafloor. Then match the letters to the statements below.



- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Molten rock flows onto the seafloor and hardens as it cools.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Hot, molten rock is forced upward toward the seafloor at a mid-ocean ridge.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. New seafloor moves away from the ridge, cools, becomes denser, and sinks.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Molten rock pushes sideways in both directions as it rises, moving the mantle with it.